



COUNTY BOROUGH OF DEWSBURY.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year 1917.



DEWSBURY :

JOSEPH WARD AND CO., PRINTERS, CAXTON SQUARE.

—
1918.



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To the Chairman and Members of the Dewsbury Education Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

As School Medical Officer, I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1917.

The Board suggest again this year that Reports should be abridged. This I have done to some extent, but being desirous of keeping an unbroken continuity of records of work done in connection with the School Medical Service, I have not abridged to the extent which would have brought the Report to a minimum.

In spite of war conditions, necessitating the absence on Military duty of Dr. KYLE, the standard of work has not suffered, and the three "code" groups have been inspected. I have received able assistance from Dr. FITTON in routine inspections, but unfortunately his help was fifty per cent. less than was expected, his other duties obliging him to withdraw his assistance. Dr. HERLEY still carries out the "further examination" of the eyes in cases of defective vision, and prescribes spectacles when necessary. The treatment centre remains popular, as is evidenced by the large number of daily attendances. The two half days per week given to dental treatment are fully occupied. There is sufficient dental work required amongst school children to occupy the time of a whole-time dentist and I am sure the increased cost would be fully met by the benefits thereby conferred upon the children.

The clerical work connected with the department is intricate and heavy, and the departure of the clerks for Active Service has necessitated more personal supervision, though Miss BEATSON, who was, before entering your temporary war-time service, quite strange to office routine, has done well and worked with the greatest assiduity.

It gives me much pleasure in thanking your Secretary, Mr. BIBBY, and Mr. BERRY, and other Members of the Educational Staff along with the Teachers and the Attendance Officers who have given much assistance in various ways. Also I would particularly commend to your notice your School-Nurse (Nurse HOWELL), who has with the greatest energy and competency carried out her duties in the best interests of the School Medical Service.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. O. HALLIWELL,

School Medical Officer.

February 28th, 1918.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN CONNECTION WITH
INSPECTION AND TREATMENT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CHILDREN.

A.—Routine Inspections :—

Entrants ... —	Boys ...	... 419	} 816	} 2510
	Girls ...	... 397		
Intermediates —	Boys ...	... 451	} 870	
	Girls ...	... 419		
Leavers ... —	Boys ...	... 416	} 824	} 2510
	Girls ...	... 408		

B.—Special Inspections (Primary but non-routine) :—

At School 8	} 340
At Clinic 332	

C.—Re-inspections :—

Entrants	... 96 children	... 108	re-inspections.
Intermediates	... 232	„	... 254
Leavers	... 135	„	... 149
Previous years	... 410	„	... 467
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	873		978
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

(Number of conditions re-inspected, 994).

D.—Special Inspections at Schools by the School-Nurse re cleanliness. 2,309

Special Re-inspections do. do. 536

E.—Home Visits by School-Nurse 635

F.—Dental Inspections and Re-inspections at School :—

Inspections, primary (6 year old children)	... ...	... 473
Specials (other years)	... ...	... 35
Re-inspections	... ...	... 175

G.—Summary of work done at Treatment and Observation Centre :—

Minor ailments treated	... ... ...	... ... ... 352
Do. under observation only	... ...	... ... 141

(Number of attendances of above 4,482).

Children treated by Dentist	{ Routine cases ...	400	} 435
	{ Special „ ...	35	

Number of General Anaesthetics 292

Special Examination of Eyes re Vision 166

The number of children inspected at each School, classified according to age at the time of Inspection, and for sex, in each group, is shown in the following table:—

SCHOOL.	INTERMEDIATES.												LEAVERS.																	
	ENTRANTS.						Male.						Female.						Male.						Female.					
	4	5	Other Age-s.	4	5	Other Age-s.	8	9	Other Age-s.	8	9	Other Age-s.	12	13	Other Age-s.	12	13	Other Age-s.	12	13	Other Age-s.	12	13	Other Age-s.	12	13	Other Age-s.			
Dewsbury Parish C. of E.	11	11	11	11	12	12	5	7	7	18	4	4	16	6	6	19	19	19	28	18	18	13	13	13	19	19	19			
St. Paulinus R.C.	7	27	1	4	23	3	8	9	9	5	2	2	4	7	7	1	1	1	40	1	1	26	26	26	26	26	26			
Batley Carr C.	3	9	21	3	9	30	3	22	9	2	5	6	25	6	6	2	2	2	12	12	12	13	13	13	2	2	2			
St. Joseph's R.C.	9	19	..	2	19	..	19	24	15	15	10	10	26	26	26	22	22	22	28	28	28	39	39	39	1	1	1			
Boothroyd Lane C.	6	26	..	8	12	..	12	11	11	16	16	16	11	11	11	5	5	5	17	17	17	18	18	18	18	18	18			
Carlton Road C.	15	26	..	2	2	2	17	17	17	5	4	4	19	1	1	1	1	1	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16			
Eastborough C.	3	11	2	2	2	2	8	5	5	19	1	1	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10			
Dewsbury Moor C.	10	..	..	2	2	2	2	2	2	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
St. John's C. of E.	4	10	..	4	4	4	4	4	4	20	..	..	19	1	1	1	1	1	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	
Victoria Jubilee C.	3	16	..	5	5	5	8	8	8	1	1	1	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10			
West Town C. of E.	3	37	2	2	9	9	42	3	3	29	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20			
Ravensthorpe St. Saviour's C. of E.	13	2	8	1	1	1	18	1	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	4	4	4	11	11	11	13	13	13	13	13	13			
Chickenley Lane C.	3	6	1	3	3	3	9	9	9	1	1	1	5	5	5	3	3	3	6	6	6	15	15	15	15	15	15			
Earlsheaton C.	2	11	..	2	2	2	8	1	1	11	2	2	8	1	1	1	1	1	7	7	7	10	10	10	10	10	10			
Earlsheaton C. of E.	3	6	1	3	3	3	9	9	9	1	1	1	18	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6			
Shaw Cross C.	1	2	2	2	3	3	1	3	3	1	6	6	14	2	2	2	2	2	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18			
Thornhill C. of E.	..	..	..	..	11	..	1	6	6	14	..	..	20	1	1	1	1	1	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	7
Thornhill Edge C. of E.	..	4	22	..	1	3	4	4	4	14	2	2	5	..	..	..	..	..	15	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Thornhill Lees C. of E.	..	5	17	3	4	4	17	3	4	14	2	2	6	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Thornhill Lees Moor C. of E.	..	7	..	7	..	5	10	..	5	14	..	..	12	10	10	10	10	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Whitley Lower C. of E.	..	5	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Savile Town C. of E.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Walker C.		
	98	307	14	81	298	18	293	158	158	263	154	2	399	17	17	2	2	2	397	11	11	..	..	..	..	..	..

NOTICES TO PARENTS AS A RESULT OF ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.

Notices to parents of 617 children were sent, intimating that certain defects required attention as follows:—

Boy Entrants	...	47	verbal and 17 written notices	...	64
Girl	,,	45	„	14	„
Boy Intermediates	46	„	65	„	111
Girl	,,	54	„	76	„
Boy Leavers	...	62	„	62	„
Girl	,,	56	„	73	„
		310		307	
					617

The percentages of notices and comparisons with the previous year are as follows:—

YEAR.	PERCENTAGE OF NOTICES.											
	Entrants.			Intermediates.			Leavers.			All Classes.		Grand Total.
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	
1909 ..	23·42	18·57	22·5	...	...	...	35·9	33·6	34·4	28·7	24·03	26·31
1910 ...	20·57	24·4	22·5	...	...	...	23·1	34	26·9	21·5	28·1	24·87
1911 ...	14·8	13·9	14·4	...	...	...	28·2	33·4	31	19·2	21·3	20·2
1912 ...	11·2	15·2	13·6	...	...	...	21	26·8	23·9	15·3	20·5	17·9
1913 ...	12·7	12·4	12·6	...	...	...	20·5	28·4	24·5	16·5	20·7	18·5
1914 ..	28·7	28·3	28·5	...	...	...	30·7	38·0	34·5	29·6	33·0	31·3
1915 ...	14	17·1	15·8	34·3	41·8	36·1	48·3	56·1	52·2	32·9	38·7	35·9
1916 ...	14·3	18·0	16·2	22·5	28·3	25·4	35·3	36·5	35·8	23·6	26·8	25·2
1917 ...	15·2	14·9	15·0	24·6	30·3	28·5	29·1	31·6	30·3	23·1	25·8	24·4

The following table gives the foregoing particulars in more detail. It shows the number of children examined ; the number of parents present ; and the number of notices sent to parents respecting inspection at each School :—

SUMMARIES OF, AND REMARKS UPON FACTS DISCLOSED AS A
RESULT OF MEDICAL INSPECTION OF THE THREE GROUPS
OF CHILDREN KNOWN AS ENTRANTS, INTERMEDIATES, AND
AND LEAVERS.

CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR (given in percentages).

	ENTRANTS.		INTERMEDIATES.		LEAVERS.		Total.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.		
Clothing	Very good ...	4·0	4·9	0·4	1·4	0	3·9	2·3
	Satisfactory ...	93·5	93·4	95·1	96·9	97·1	94·1	95·0
	Unsatisfactory	2·4	1·7	4·4	1·7	2·9	1·9	2·6
Footgear	Very good ..	3·8	4·0	·4	·2	0	3·9	2·1
	Satisfactory ...	93·3	92·9	94·9	93·8	96·6	92·1	94·0
	Unsatisfactory	2·8	3·0	4·6	5·9	3·3	3·9	3·9

Compared with the previous year there was a very slightly higher percentage of children with unsatisfactory clothing and footgear. Whilst unfortunately there are year by year to be found a few children insufficiently clad owing to adverse circumstances, it is regretable that others appear with their clothing ragged, without any attempt at repair, fastened together by pieces of string and pins, suggesting that buttons, needles and thread are unknown articles in the household.

HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS.

The following tables give the average heights and weights of children examined, and the general average for the country at the specified ages :—

AVERAGE HEIGHTS (IN INCHES).

	Age Periods.						
	4	5	6	8	9	12	13
BOYS.							
General Average	38·6	40·7	43·0	47·4	49·1	55·0	56·0
Dewsbury Average	38·8	40·5	41·8	43·4	49·8	53·8	55·6
GIRLS.							
General Average ...	38·2	40·4	42·6	47·0	48·7	55·6	57·0
Dewsbury Average	39·1	40·5	44·7	46·8	48·1	53·8	54·7

AVERAGE WEIGHTS (IN LBS.).

	Age Periods.						
	4	5	6	8	9	12	13
BOYS.							
General Average ...	35.8	38.5	42.2	52.2	55.9	73.0	77.3
Dewsbury Average	36.05	35.4	39.4	51.9	54.2	71.5	76.4
GIRLS.							
General Average ...	34.9	37.6	41.0	49.8	54.0	73.9	80.4
Dewsbury Average	34.6	35.6	40.7	50.2	50.8	72.2	71.0

NUTRITION AND MALNUTRITION.

The following table shows the condition of children examined, the figures being given as percentages:—

		Very good.	Normal.	Slightly below Normal.	Bad.
Boy Entrants	...	15.9	79.0	5.0	0
Girl „	...	15.1	80.3	4.5	0
Boy Intermediates	...	6.0	90.7	3.3	0
Girl „	...	12.1	81.6	6.2	0
Boy Leavers	...	12.7	78.8	8.4	0
Girl „	...	17.4	76.5	6.1	0

For the past seven years the percentages of children slightly below normal and decidedly below normal are shown as follows:—

Year.		Slightly below normal.	Decidedly below normal.
1910	...	7.7	4.9
1911	...	6.2	2.8
1912	...	3	1.5
1913	...	3.3	1.4
1914	...	1.2	1.7
1915	...	2.84	.12
1916	...	5.8	0
1917	...	5.5	0

Whilst there are variations in the condition of nutrition amongst individual children and amongst the different groups of children examined, the general average is much the same as noted during the previous year. The percentage of children below normal in height, weight and nutrition, is higher than it should be. It might be argued that owing to war conditions there has been a shortage of food more especially during the later months of the year. I am still however of the opinion that, with the exception of a certain number of cases where there is lack of

assimilation on the part of the individual the more important cause is the unsuitable dietary frequently provided for many children. Another important factor however, is unhealthy immediate conditions and environment. One looks forward to the time—in the next generation if not in this—when there will be a decided uplifting in the standard of housing, and in home hygiene, both of which are essential if the physical condition of the children is to be raised to what it ought to be;—the worse the house and the worse the home conditions, generally holds good. It is difficult to make people understand what vitiated air means, and how detrimental it is to life, and especially to the growing child.

CLEANLINESS.

The numbers of children found at the routine Inspections to be quite satisfactory, both as regards head and body, are as follows:—

		Number Inspected.	Number perfectly satisfactory.	Percentage satisfactory.	
Entrants ...	Boys ...	419	416	Head.	Body.
	Girls ...	197	242	99.3	98.5
Intermedi- ates ...	Boys ...	451	450	99.8	99.6
	Girls ...	419	300	71.5	100
Leavers ...	Boys ...	416	414	99.5	99
	Girls ...	408	245	60.0	99.7

The following table shows the number of children at the routine Inspections found to be more or less verminous or potentially verminous, viz., children with nits:—

	Few Nits.		Many Nits.		Nits and Lice.	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
Boy Entrants ...	2	.5	0	0	1	.2
Girl „ „	114	28.7	36	9.0	5	1.2
Boy Intermediates	1	.2	0	0	0	0
Girl „ „	99	23.6	7	1.7	13	3.1
Boy Leavers ...	2	.5	0	0	0	0
Girl „ „	146	35.8	17	4.1	0	0

Generally speaking, children are at their best on the day of inspection, as the parents have had previous notice, and consequently the majority are prepared for the occasion. This is right and proper in its way, but it does not necessarily show their every day condition. The child's body can be made clean quickly, but the hair requires more time, and it is regretable to find that the number of girls not perfectly satisfactory in this respect shows an increased percentage. Doubtless the chief cause is less time on the mother's part to give full attention to her girl, but there is a tendency on the part of some mothers to throw the responsibility on to the children, and to consider them old enough to look after themselves in this respect—which is not easy,—many still think, or at least say they think, girls and nits are inseparable.

TEETH.

The condition of children's teeth is set forth in the following table as percentages :—

	ENTRANTS.			INTERMEDIATES.			LEAVERS.		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Perfect Set of Teeth	9·0	12·0	10·5	6·4	9·0	7·7	17·8	19·3	18·5
One to Four Teeth Decayed ..	22·4	21·8	22·0	40·8	42·5	41·6	49·5	50·0	49·9
More than Four Teeth Decayed	68·5	66·2	67·4	52·7	48·4	50·7	32·7	30·0	31·5

Note.—Special dental inspection and treatment is dealt with later.

NOSE AND THROAT.

	ENTRANTS.			INTERMEDIATES.			LEAVERS.		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(a) NOSE :									
Deformed Septum	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	3
Enlarged Turbinated Bones	1	0	1	1	0	1	6	2	8
Rhinitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) TONSILS :									
Slightly Enlarged	76	71	147	58	52	110	50	74	124
Much Enlarged	12	9	21	25	44	69	31	30	61
Tonsillitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
(c) ADENOIDS :									
Slight	4	7	11	17	19	36	12	7	19
Marked	7	6	13	0	5	5	1	0	1
Mouth Breathers	5	4	9	1	4	5	0	10	10
(d) GLANDS :									
Slightly Enlarged	16	11	27	46	23	69	31	21	52
Much Enlarged	21	14	35	6	2	8	1	2	3
(e) TONSILS AND ADENOIDS	5	8	13	1	4	5	19	9	28
(f) No DEFECT	296	284	580	312	296	608	280	265	545

The percentages of children without defect are as follows:—

Entrants	...	Male	70	per cent.
		Female	71	,
Intermediates	...	Male	69	,
		Female	70	,
Leavers	...	Male	67	,
		Female	62	,

Compared with the previous year the entrants were practically the same, the intermediates showed improved conditions, and the leavers the reverse.

EXTERNAL EYE DISEASE.

	Entrants.		Intermediates.		Leavers.		Total
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female	
Blepharitis ...	6	2	4	1	2	1	16
Conjunctivitis ...	4	2	2	1	...	1	10
Corneal opacity ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2
Nystagmus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Squint ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Disease ...	...	...	1	1	1	...	3

The percentage of all the children of the three groups examined who showed some form of external eye disease was 1·23, which is an improvement on the previous year. Of course amongst the general body of scholars others than those above have been affected, but they are dealt with later as special cases.

VISION.

Of the 451 Boy Intermediates 241 or 53% had normal vision.

„	419 Girl	,	197	„	47%	,	„
„	416 Boy Leavers		237	„	56%	,	„
„	408 Girl	,	224	„	54%	,	„

The names of children whose vision is worse than six-twelfths are entered in a special register, and special further examination at the School Clinic is subsequently offered to them through their parents.

The number of children with vision worse than six-twelfths was as follows:—

Intermediates :—

Boys, one eye worse than six-twelfths	22	Boys, 62 Girls, 54	116 or 13.3%
Girls, " "	22		
Boys, both eyes ,,	40		
Girls, " "	32		

Leavers:—

Boys, one eye worse than six-twelfths	24	Boys, 47 Girls, 75	122 or 26.9%
Girls, „ „ „	37		
Boys, both eyes „ „ „	23		
Girls, „ „ „	38		

EAR DISEASE.

Twenty-two children had some affection of ears, as follows:—

	Simple Obstruction.	Otorrhoea.	Other Disease.
Entrants ...	2	8	1
Intermediates ...	1	1	2
Leavers ...	4	4	...

HEARING.

The Hearing of the Entrants group is not tested.

The following shows the results of examination of the Intermediate and Leaver groups:—

	INTERMEDIATES.			LEAVERS.		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
20 feet each ear (normal hearing)	447	418	865	416	405	821
20 feet R (defective) ...	...	...	...	...	1	1
„ L „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ Both ears „ „ „	3	1	4	...	...	...
10 feet R (defective) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ L „ „ „	...	...	...	...	2	2
„ Both ears „ „ „	1	...	1	...	...	...
5 feet R (defective) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ L „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ Both ears „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals defective	...	4	1	5	...	3
						3

SPEECH.

Fifteen children, or 58 per cent., had some defect of speech, as follows:—

- 3 Boy Entrants
- 1 Boy and 3 Girl Intermediates } defective
- 2 Boy and 3 Girl Leavers } articulation.
- 1 Boy Intermediate and 2 Boy Leavers were stammerers.

MENTAL CONDITION.

Five male and four female Intermediates, and one male and four female Leavers were marked as being dull and backward ; of these, one Intermediate girl and one girl Leaver were more pronounced cases, and might after trial at a Special School or Class, if such had been in existence locally, have been considered to be mental defectives.

HEART AND CIRCULATION.

Six Entrants, fifteen Intermediates, and eighteen Leavers were found to have abnormal heart sounds, and one boy Entrant was markedly anaemic. These forty cases make a percentage of 1·7.

Twenty-three of the heart cases were probably organic, viz., two female Entrants, six boy and four girl Intermediates, and seven boy and four girl Leavers.

A definite history of rheumatism was obtained in six cases, chorea in one, scarlet fever in one, and diphtheria in two.

LUNGS.

(Excluding Tuberculosis and Suspected Tuberculosis.)

The number of children found at routine inspections to have physical signs of simple bronchitis and bronchial catarrh was as follows :—

		Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage of total examined.
Entrants	...	38	40	78	9·5
Intermediates	...	18	8	26	3·0
Leavers	...	21	8	29	3·5

Inspection shows year by year that the highest percentage is found amongst the Entrants group. Perhaps the chief reason is that this group happens to be inspected towards the end of the year when summer conditions are absent. These young children are more susceptible to influences of the weather, and taking them as a group, their clothing is of such a nature that their *whole* bodies are less protected from cold and damp than is the case with older children. Re-inspections, however, frequently show the catarrhal conditions have cleared up ; this again depends on the time of the year when these subsequent examinations take place. Not quite half have been re-inspected. This is unavoidable as it is found that many of the Leaver group have left School. Other children are absent when the Schools are visited for the purpose, and as the Entrant group is generally primarily inspected during the autumn, their re-inspections cannot be accomplished until the following year.

The result of Re-inspections is as follows :—

		Well.	Improved.	As before.	(Not Re-inspected). No record.
Entrants	...	15	2	5	56
Intermediates	...	17	0	1	8
Leavers	...	14	1	3	11
		—	—	—	—
		46	3	9	75

LUNGS.

(Tuberculosis and Suspected Tuberculosis).

During the year thirty-four children were referred for re-examination, as they presented physical signs pertaining to Tuberculosis. Twenty-seven were re-inspected at the School or at the Clinic, or both, and many of them more than once. Of the seven not re-inspected four were found to have left School, and the others were absent.

Of the twenty-seven re-inspected, fifteen were well, six were definitely notified under Form B to be tubercular, and the other six were still under observation, one being improved and five as before.

The following table gives the above in more detail :—

		No. Re-inspected.				
		No. referred.	Well.	Tubercular.	Under Observation	No record.
Entrants	(Male)	4	1	1	1	1
"	(Female)	2	...	...	1	1
Intermediates	(Male)	5	5	...	...	...
"	(Female)	6	2	1	3	...
Leavers	(Male)	12	7	3	...	2
"	(Female)	5	...	1	1	3
		—	—	—	—	—
		34	15	6	6	7

Note.—One male positive case was a non-resident and belonged to the Leaver group.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year three male Entrants ; one male and one female Intermediates were notified to be suffering from tubercular glands, the female being a non-resident of Dewsbury ; and one male intermediate had tubercular disease of the hip. One special (non-routine) male had disease of the spine.

A number of children of School age are notified by general Medical Practitioners to the Medical Officer of Health, and the following table gives the ages and the sites of the disease of all children of School age notified during the year, whether they were attending School at the time or not:—

Site of Disease.	Age Periods.												Totals.					
	5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Lungs	1	0	1	2	...	0	2	1	1	...	0	1	1*	1	2	1
Glands	3	0	...	...	0	*1	1	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Bowel	1	0	1	0	
Hip	1	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Spine	1	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Brain	0	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
General	0	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

* Two non-residents.

Four of the lung cases, the brain, bowel and general cases have died. All cases are referred to the Tuberculosis Dispensary on notification. Six lung cases have been recommended by the Dispensary Medical Officer for admission to Sanatorium and have been admitted. Their stay in institution is a fairly lengthy one, anything from three to six months as a rule, or even longer.

RICKETS.

One female Entrant, two male and two female Intermediates, and one male Leaver, a total percentage of 2·3, presented signs of active rickets. Of course this does not include those children who have had active symptoms previously, as is evidenced by such conditions as deformed legs and pigeon breast.

DEFORMITIES.

The number of children with some deformity was:—

Entrants	...	12	males and 7 females, total 19 = 2·3%.
Intermediates	12	,	5 „ 17 = 2·0%.
Leavers	...	17	, 11 „ 28 = 3·4%.

The chief deformities met with are slight knock-knees, bent and bowed legs, pigeon breast, which are generally associated with past rickets. and lameness from retarded growth of one limb or partial paralysis of muscles due to disease.

SKIN DISEASE

During routine inspection fifty-four children had some form of skin disease, eczema being the most common.

	Ringworm.		Eczema.		Others.		Total.	Per-	centage.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
Entrants	1	3	5	6	1	—	16	1·9	
Intermediates	1	1	5	4	7	4	22	2·5	
Leavers	—	—	7	4	3	3	17	2·0	

OTHER CONDITIONS.

Abnormal conditions other than those already noted were few :—

- Chorea—one female Entrant and one female Intermediate.
- Mental—one female Intermediate.
- Nervous—one male Entrant and one male Leaver.
- Thyroid enlargement—three male and two female Leavers.

NOTICES TO PARENTS AS A RESULT OF ROUTINE INSPECTION.

The following table shows the defects requiring remedial attention, for which notices were sent to parents :—

	ENTRANTS.			INTERMEDIATES.			LEAVERS.			Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Want of Cleanliness ...	4	1	5	1	1	2	3	...	3	10
Verminous Condition of Head	1	7	8	8	7	15	1	8	9	32
Clothing and Footgear	1	2	3	12	10	22	4	2	6	31
Nose and Throat ...	26	27	53	35	52	87	47	57	104	244
External Eye Disease	6	6	12	5	2	7	...	1	1	29
Defective Vision	...	...	...	60	56	116	46	76	122	238
Ear Disease ...	7	1	8	...	1	1	2	4	6	15
Hearing ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	1	4	5
Deformities ...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	1	1	4
Nutrition ...	4	4	8	2	4	6	4	3	7	21
Heart ...	1	...	1	...	4	4	6	3	9	14
Lungs Tuberculosis	1	...	1	...	1	1	3	1	4	6
Do. do. (?)	3	...	3	1	4	5	5	2	7	15
Do. (Non-Tubercular)	12	12	24	4	6	10	9	4	13	47
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	3	...	3	2	1	3	...	...	...	6
Teeth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mental Condition	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	2
Speech ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2
Skin Disease ...	5	8	13	8	8	16	6	5	11	40
Nervous System and Chorea	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Contagious Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Conditions ...	...	...	...	1	3	4	2	1	3	7
Total ...	74	70	144	139	163	302	142	172	314	760

The total number of notices were eighty-nine less than the previous year, but this is more than accounted for by not having sent dental notices, whereas in 1916, one hundred and twenty-eight were sent. This of course does not take into account the special examinations and treatment by the School Dentist, which is dealt with later.

SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.

Special inspections may for convenience be divided into three groups :—

A.—Children, not belonging to the routine inspection groups, brought before the Inspector by the Teachers on the days of ordinary inspections.

There were only eight so brought forward. All were for defective vision, and special examination and treatment was advised in seven.

B.—Children sent or brought to the Clinic at the Town Hall by the Teachers, School Attendance Officers, and parents.

The number examined was 332, for the following :—

Condition.			Referred for Treatment.
Blepharitis	...	... 18	... 18
Conjunctivitis	...	... 63	... 63
Eczema and Impetigo	...	94	...
Scabies	...	25	...
Ringworm of body	...	18	...
Ringworm of head	...	40 (15 negative)	25
Verminous condition of head	10	...	10
Ear Disease	...	13	...
Throat	...	9	...
General health	...	8	...
Vision	...	11	...
Miscellaneous	...	23	...
		332	311

C.—Inspections at schools by the School Nurse for cleanliness. The School Nurse visited the Girls' and Infants' departments of all schools except one, and examined those present, viz., 2,309. Out of these 126 were excluded, a percentage of 3·5. The year before the percentage was 3·1.

In addition, 536 re-inspections were made of the above children who were not satisfactory when first seen, but not quite bad enough in the Nurse's opinion for exclusion.

SPECIAL DENTAL INSPECTIONS AND RE-INSPECTIONS.

The general procedure connected with Dental inspection and treatment has been the same as when first inaugurated in 1916.

During the year 473 six-year old children were inspected, the condition found being as follows :—

	TEMPORARY TEETH.			PERMANENT TEETH.		
	Sound.	Savable.	Unsavable.	Sound.	Savable.	Unsavable.
473 Children examined ...	5144	86	2143	2448	629	53
Average per child ...	10·8	0·2	4·5	5·2	1·3	0·1

In addition, 175 children were re-examined, their primary inspection having taken place the previous year. The results were as follows :—

	TEMPORARY TEETH.			PERMANENT TEETH.		
	Sound.	Savable.	Unsavable.	Sound.	Savable.	Unsavable.
175 Children examined ...	1543	64	363	1285	241	24
Average per child ...	8·8	0·4	2·0	7·3	1·4	0·1

Of this last group, 96 children had already received treatment during 1916, and only 19 children were found to have "no decay." The condition of this group was as follows :—

	TEMPORARY TEETH.			PERMANENT TEETH.		
	Sound.	Savable.	Unsavable.	Sound.	Savable.	Unsavable.
96 Children examined ...	779	16	96	757	139	6·0
Average per child ...	8·0	·16	1·0	7·8	1·4	·06

The above shows how very necessary it is that the condition of children's teeth should be inspected year by year, and followed up by proper treatment. It is not sufficient to examine and treat a group of children one year and leave them. Continuous treatment should be the standard aimed at.

In addition to the above, thirty-five special non-routine cases applied for inspection and treatment.

RE-INSPECTIONS.

As far as possible re-inspections of defective children have been made, viz :—of those found defective during routine or special examination during 1917, and of those defectives primarily examined in previous years who are still on the Schools' registers. Re-inspection is not limited to those defects referred for treatment, but those referred for observation only.

The majority of this year's Entrants have not been re-inspected, as the primary inspection took place during the latter half of the year, and also several Infants' Schools were closed towards the end of the year on account of the prevalence of Measles. With respect to Leavers and those inspected in previous years many have left School. Many children have more than one defect.

The following table summarises the work done relating to re-inspection.

	Number of Children re-inspected.	Number of defects re-inspected.	Number of re-inspections.
Entrants ...	96	101	108
Intermediates	232	298	254
Leavers ...	135	150	149
Previous years	410	445	467
	873	994	978

*Note.—*This does not include re-inspections of special group primarily seen at the clinic; and the further examination of children for defective vision or dental re-inspection.

The result of re-inspection of defects not referred for treatment but primarily notified for observation only was as follows :—

	Well.	Improved.	As before.
Entrants ...	7	22	35
Intermediates ...	64	35	62
Leavers ...	32	25	36
Previous years ...	34	44	39

Six conditions were worse and necessitated being referred for treatment.

The results of re-inspection of conditions referred for treatment is dealt with in Table IV. at the end of the Report.

EXCLUSION OF CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL.

During the year, 253 children were excluded from school for minor conditions by the School Medical Staff. This number of course does not include the large number excluded for infectious diseases or contacts therewith.

The number compares favourably with the previous year's figures, being 15 per cent. less. There were fewer cases of ring-worm, eczema and impetigo, and external eye diseases. On the other hand there was an increased number of exclusions from scabies and verminous conditions.

It is particularly disappointing to report adversely respecting this condition of uncleanliness, for so much has been done to try to secure improvement year by year. There are chronic offenders who give trouble not only to the Medical Staff but to the Teachers, the latter frequently calling our attention to specific cases. The present state of the law is quite inadequate to meet the case in certain instances. Proceedings in court have been taken against parents of three children on account of absence from School because of prolonged verminous condition of head; convictions were obtained in each, and fines inflicted.

The following table shows the exclusion in detail, and the number re-admitted during the year:—

Cause of Exclusion.			Number excluded.	Number re-admitted.
Ringworm of Scalp	...	..	28	42 <small>(including 28 excluded in previous years)</small>
,, Body	...	...	2	2
Eczema and Impetigo	...	...	42	39
Scabies	...	...	28	25
Herpes	...	...	1	—
Ear Disease	...	...	2	2
External Eye Disease	...	...	24	21
Verminous Conditions	...	..	126	109
Totals			253	240

TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

In addition to the treatment of Dewsbury children by Medical men as private patients, there are several agencies providing treatment for the cure and amelioration of their ailments and defects, viz:—the local Education Authority, the local Sanitary Authority, the local Infirmary, the Poor Law Authority, and other Infirmaries in neighbouring towns.

There has been no addition to the Education Authority's scheme of treatment or alteration in the administrative methods.

The work of the School Clinic may conveniently be shortly summarised under three heads, viz:—Dental treatment; the further examination of the eyes in cases of defective vision and the provision of spectacles in needy cases; and the treatment of minor ailments.

A.—Dental Treatment.

The following information relating to the two main groups is essential :—

	1917 Code Group.		1916 Code Group.
Children examined ...	... 473	...	175
No teeth decayed ...	... 31	...	24
Recommended for treatment ...	... 440	...	149
Consented to treatment ...	... 331	...	126
Refused treatment ...	... 22	...	7
Having private treatment ...	... 14	...	6
No answer to offer of treatment	73	...	10

The following children have received treatment at the clinic:—

330 of the 1917 code group.

70 „ 1916 „

35 Specials.

Total—435

The actual treatment given is as follows :—

	Amalgam.	Cement Amalgam.	Cement.	Total.
Teeth filled ...	416	70	34	510
Teeth extracted			...	1396
Number of Anaesthetics administered			...	292

It must be conceded that very good work is being achieved in the dental department, and there is none more necessary. Parents I believe recognise the benefits conferred on their children, and the Dental Surgeon, Mr. ROGERSON, has gained the confidence of the children. The youngsters come to the clinic more than once and step into the dental chair without the slightest trepidation except in very occasional instances. Much more dental work could be carried out if there was only time, and many applications for treatment are made, but have perforce to be generally refused, as the time is really insufficient to complete even the code group.

I have personally administered the anaesthetics, and invariably use a mixture of Nitrous Oxide and Ethyl Chloride.

B.—Defective Vision.

The following table summarises the year's work :—

	SPECIAL ENTRANTS.	INTERMEDIATE.	LEAVERS.	SPECIALS.	TOTALS.
Number requiring special examination	116	122	18
Number promised to obtain private treatment but no record	6	14	...
Number obtained private treatment	6	8	2
Number further examined at Clinic	1	59	16
Number not examined at Clinic though appointments made	36	10
Number carried forward to next year	9	...
<hr/>					
<i>Results of further Examinations at Clinic (166).</i>					
Spectacles unnecessary, or no change in present glasses required	5	10	...
Spectacles necessary and prescriptions given	54	80	16
<hr/>					
<i>Number of Spectacles.</i>					
Obtained privately	40	50	13
Provided by Local Authority	7	7	2
Not obtained though prescriptions given	23	23	1
					103
					16
					31

The nine carried forward cases have been examined this year (1918) and three have obtained spectacles.

It will be noted that according to the latest enquiry thirty-one had not obtained spectacles, though prescriptions had been given. It is possible that some may have since been obtained. It is also unsatisfactory to find children not presenting themselves for special examination though appointments were made; certainly some were unable to come at the appointed time owing to illness, but there is no adequate excuse for the majority. Parents sometimes say their children don't want to wear spectacles, and parental authority is not exercised so far as to make them.

C.—Minor Ailments.

The total attendances at the Clinic for observation and treatment was 4,482. This of course does not include vision or dental cases.

The following table shows the number of cases treated and the number under observation though receiving treatment elsewhere than at the Clinic, and the number of attendances :—

CASES.	Number of cases attending for observation and treatment.	Number of cases under observation only and for diagnosis.	Total Number of Attendances.
Ringworm (Head) ...	47	15	472
„ (Body) ...	14	1	64
External Eye Disease...	86	...	2607
Verminous Conditions	101	25	394
Impetigo and Eczema...	42	4	462
Scabies ...	25	5	155
Ear Disease	16	11	213
Nose and Throat	...	12	12
Lungs ...	...	38	45
Measles and German Measles	...	3	3
Heart ...	...	10	13
Other Causes	21	17	42
 Totals ...	352	141	4482

It is satisfactory to note that the number of cases of ringworm of the head is diminishing, although we are handicapped by the old and slow method of treatment.

There were fewer cases of external eye disease, but a large increase in the verminous or potentially verminous conditions.

The following table shows the number of cases of ringworm attending the Clinic during the year:—

Year of origin.	Number of Cases.		Cured.		Left District.		Under observation at end of year.	
	Head.	Body.	Head.	Body.	Head.	Body.	Head.	Body.
1917	28	15	14	15	2	...	12	...
1916	29	...	25	...	...	...	4	...
1915	4	...	3	...	...	...	1	...
1914	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Total ...	62	15	42	15	2	...	18	...

In addition to cases treated at the Clinic, a number come frequently for re-inspection, and are kept under observation although they are receiving home treatment.

PROVISION OF MEALS.

During the year 53 breakfasts, 1251 dinners, and 280 teas, a total of 1584 meals have been supplied to necessitous children, which is practically one-half the number of meals provided during the previous year.

Only seventeen children have received free meals. Seven have been fed for months and account for 1282 meals, the other ten receiving 302 meals between them.

The following table allocates the meals to the various Schools:—

		Breakfasts	Dinners	Teas	Total Meals	No. of children fed.
West Town C. of E. Boys'	...	280	...	280	280	2
,, Infants'	...	159	...	159	159	1
Victoria C. Girls'	...	232	223	455	455	2 (Chiefly one.)
Boothroyd Lane C. Boys'	...	200	...	200	200	2 ,,
,, Girls'	...	220	...	220	220	2 ,,
,, Infants'	...	110	6	116	116	2 ,,
Carlton Road C. Boys'	15	16	16	47	47	1
,, Infants'	33	34	35	102	102	3
Batley Carr C. Boys'	...	5	...	5	5	2
	53	1251	280	1584	1584	17

The total cost was ... £32 12s. 6d.

The average cost per meal was 4·9 pence.

SANATORIUM TREATMENT FOR CONSUMPTIVE SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Sanatorium Treatment is provided by the local Sanitary Authority. At the commencement of the year there were five School children in Sanatorium, and during the year thirteen others have been admitted, accommodation having been obtained for every recommendation of the Tuberculosis Dispensary Officer. At the end of the year there were four still in Sanatorium. Of those discharged six were reported to be much improved, two improved, two slightly improved, two as before, three worse. The two "as before" were taken home by their parents seven days after admission. Two have since died. The stay in hospital is not limited—three to six months and longer, being the usual period.

TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AT THE DEWSBURY AND DISTRICT GENERAL INFIRMARY.

The Secretary of the above Institution has kindly supplied me with the following figures which relate to the treatment of School age:—

Glands of Neck Removed	...	...	22
Tonsils and Adenoids Removed	...	.	282
Adenoids (only) Removed	...	...	12
Dental Cases	...	...	410

A certain number of the above were non-residents, but I cannot give the figures.

MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN (INCLUDING EPILEPTICS AND DEAF MUTES).

At the end of the year there were fifteen Dewsbury children in Special Schools or Institutions. There were three discharges, viz:—two blind girls and one deaf boy, and three admissions, viz:—one blind boy and one blind girl, and one deaf boy.

The list at the end of the year was as follows:—

Yorkshire School for the Blind (York)	...	...	2 boys.
Yorkshire School for the Deaf and Dumb (Doncaster)	5 boys ; 1 girl.		
Manchester Royal School for the Deaf	...	...	1 girl.
Leeds Mental Deficiency School	...	...	1 boy.
Maghull Home for Epileptics	...	...	1 boy.
Manchester Industrial School	...	...	2 boys.
Shibden Industrial School	..	...	2 boys.

Two additional children were also recommended for admission to Special Institutions for the Deaf, but being under the age of seven years the consideration was deferred.

Mental Defectives.—The local provision of special facilities for the education of the mentally defectives has remained in abeyance. Under the special regulations three children have been transferred from the jurisdiction of the local Education Authority to the local Control Authority, under the Mental Deficiency Act.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of acute infectious diseases, occurring amongst School children, notified to the Local Sanitary Authority, was as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	...	25
Diphtheria	...	17
Enteric Fever	...	2
Measles	...	859
German Measles	...	9

It is unnecessary to say anything concerning the first three mentioned diseases beyond that there was a considerable decrease compared with the previous year, and that the incidence may be considered quite satisfactory.

There has been a severe epidemic of Measles and German Measles in the Borough. No part has been free, but the incidence was the least in Thornhill and Ravensthorpe, though there have been more cases in these two areas during the early part of this year (1918).

As regards age period the incidence was greatest from 3 to 7 years, the number being few in later years, as is shown as follows :—

Age.		Number of cases.		German Measles.
		Measles.		
3 years	...	85	...	—
4 „	...	169	...	2
5 „	...	231	...	4
6 „		179	...	3
7 „	...	105	...	1
8 „	...	37	...	—
9 „	...	26	...	—
10 „	...	12	...	—
11 „	...	8	...	—
12 „	...	5	...	—
13 „	...	1	...	—
14 „	...	1	..	—

Every case was visited by the Health Visitors, who are officials of the Health Authority, and advice is given on the general care and management. Arrangements have now been made whereby any necessitous case requiring nursing attention may procure it free.

The comparative incidence of other infectious diseases (non-notifiable) is obtained from intimations from Head Teachers. During the year they notified me of 90 cases of chicken-pox and 102 of whooping cough.

School closure was resorted to in November and December on account of the prevalence of measles as follows :—

Savile Town C. of E. Infants' School		
Earlsheaton C.	„	
Earlsheaton C. of E.	„	
Batley Carr C.	„	
St. Joseph's R.C.	„	
Eastborough C.	„	
West Town C. of E.	„	from Nov. 9th, for three weeks.
Thornhill Lees Memorial	„	from Dec. 12th until after Xmas holidays

TABLE I.—Number of Children Inspected 1st January, 1917, to 31st December, 1917.

A "CODE GROUPS."

Age	... 4	ENTRANTS.			INTERMEDIATES.			LEAVERS.			Grand Total.
		5	Other Ages.	Total.	8	Total.	12	13	Total	12	
Boys	98	307	419	293	293	399	17	707	1128	
Girls	81	208	397	263	263	397	11	661	1068	
Totals	179	605	32	816	556	796	28	1380	2196	

B GROUPS OTHER THAN "CODE."

Intermediate Group (other than 8 years).	Special Cases.	Re-Examination, <i>i.e.</i> , No. of Children re-examined.	
		Boys	Girls
		158	156
		340	340
Totals	...	314	314
		873	873

TABLE II.—Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection in 1917.

Defect or Disease			Code Groups.			Specials.	
			Number referred for Treatment	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment	Number referred for Treatment	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment
Malnutrition	...	...	21	84			...
Uncleanliness	Head	...	26	24	10		
	Body	...	8	2			
Skin	Ringworm	Head	6	...	25		
		Body	...	...	18		
	Scabies	...	6	...	25		
	Impetigo	...	...	2	3		
	Other Disease	...	28	15	..		
Eye	Defective Vision and Squint		238	2	19		
	External Eye Disease		15	7	76		
Ear	Defective Hearing		6	4	1		
	Ear Disease		14	1	12		
Teeth—Dental Disease	...	...	...	...	...
Nose and Throat	Enlarged Tonsils	...	157	331	5		
	Adenoids	...	23	23	1		
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	...	59	22	..		
Heart and Circu- lation	Defective Speech	...	2	2	1		
	Heart Disease—						
	Organic		13	10	..		
	Functional		...	18			
	Anæmia	...	1	2	..		
Lungs	Pulmonary Tuberculosis—						
	Definite		6	..	..
	Suspected		15	23	1		
	Chronic Bronchitis		47	54	..		
Ner- vous Sys- tem	Other Disease		...	...	..
	Epilepsy	...	..	..	..
	Chorea	...	..	2	1		
Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis—							
	Glands	...	5	..	..
	Bones and Joints	...	1	..	1		
	Other Forms	...	..	..	..
Rickets	...	...	2	1	..		
Deformities	...	...	4	17	..		
Other Disease or Defect	...	...	3	14	25	3	

TABLE IV.—Treatment of Defects of Children during 1917.

CONDITION.	No. of Defects found for which Treatment was considered necessary.		No. of Defects for which no Report is available.		No. of Defects Treated.		Result of Treatment.		No. of Defects not Treated.	Percentage of Defects Treated.
	From previous years.	New.	Total.	No. of Defects for which no Report is available.	No. of Defects Treated.	Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.		
Clothing	17	4	7	2	5	6	41·0	42·0
Footgear	28	10	12	10	2	...	51·0	51·0
Cleanliness of Head	47	15	24	17	7	...	44·0	44·0
Cleanliness of Body	9	1	4	4	4	...	55·0	55·0
Nutrition	31	14	17	3	5	9	33·0	33·0
Nose and Throat	21	143	143	67	76	4	98·0	98·0
External Eye Disease	245	98	96	92	4	...	74·0	74·0
Ear Disease	10	155	155	39	11	13	...	85·0
Heart and Circulation	182	7	7	29	11	1	...	76·0
Lungs	13	26	14	2	12	11	...	100·0
Nervous System	14	14	19	60	33	...	91·0
Skin	11	68	79	2	2	2	...	75·0
Rickets	11	1	2	...	1	2	37·0
Deformities	44	202	246	22	224	...	71·0
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	0·0
Speech
Mental Condition	75	54·0
Vision and Squint	2	50·0
Hearing	1	86·0
Miscellaneous
Totals	383	1052	1435	338	855	608	177	70
									242	59·0

A. Not including Special Inspections at Schools by School Nurse, for which see body of Report.

B. Including Specials at Clinic (162).

TABLE V.—INSPECTION, TREATMENT, ETC. OF CHILDREN
DURING 1917.

(1.) The total number of children medically inspected (whether Code Group, Special or Ailing child) ...	2850
(2.) The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observa- tion (but not referred for treatment) ...	513
(3.) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment(excluding uncleanliness, defective cloth- ing, etc.) ...	932
(4.) The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.) ...	639

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